payment of TED and Duty Drawback under Deemed Exports and CST for supplies to EOUs. This would be applicable to all sectors.

(c) The new relief package is expected to help exporters face the situation arising out of rupee appreciation in particular and to keep them competitive. This will ensure that country's export targets are met.

(d) Except for Interest subvention which is for the nine identified sectors and SMEs, rest of the package is for all the export sectors.

Formulation of Manufacturing Policy

3114. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a 'Manufacturing Policy';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The present Industrial Policy of the Government is guided by the Statemenet on Industrial Policy, 1991 and Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1954, as amended from time to time. Government constituted "National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council" (NMCC) in September, 2004, to function as inter-disciplinary and autonomous body to serve as a policy forum for credible and coherent policy initiative in manufacturing sector. In their interaction with the Ministries NMCC advises in formulating policies and such measures/reforms as may be required for improving the competitiveness and growth of the manufacturing sector. Various incentives in the form of fiscal and tax relief in specified sectors in manufacturing activity are also given. There is a continuous evaluation and review of policy relating to the Manufacturing and other sectors.

Special concession to Indian exports

†3115. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the competition in International market it is necessary to given special concession to Indian exports in order to make sale-purchase of Indian products smooth and profitable;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the average annual concession given to exporters financially by Government during the last five years;

(d) whether it has become necessary to give additional concessions alongwith present concessions; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Government extends certain Schemes to make Indian products competitive in the international market. Primarily these Schemes are in the form of Duty Neutralisation Schemes to neutralize duty components on inputs used in the manufacture of export product, the Incentive Schemes to offset the infrastructural inefficiencies, high freight cost, other externalities etc. Quantum of benefit provided under these Schemes for the last five years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Government keeps monitoring the emerging situation, makes concerted efforts, and takes suitable measures, as necessary, from time to time to keep Indian products internationally competitive. Accordingly, a number of additional concessions have been extended in the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy (RE-2008), which is available in the public domain and can be downloaded from the DGFT Website: www.dgft.gov.in

Statement

Benefits extended under the various Major Export Promotion Schemes during the years 2003-04 *to* 2007-08

A. CIF value of imports allowed*/Duty credit allowed /Payment made*** under the following schemes:**

(Rs. in crores)

Sl No	Schemes	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	Advance Licence (Authorisation)*	44992	79311	99430	159965	133957
2	DEPB**	10734	8240	5001	4600	5496
3	DFCE/Target Plus for Status Holders**	—	—	3603	2660	1693
4	DFIA*		—	—	14905	9212
5	DFRC*	3172	5501	7398	4146	338
6	Gems & Jewellery Schemes*	20	13	6	8	18
7	EPCG**	8887	10207	6399	15233	16300
8	DFCE for service provider/Served from India Scheme**	636	781	753	1301	1229
9	VKGUY**	—	—	259	559	550
10	Focus Market (FMS)**	—	—	—	—	37
11	Focus Product (FPS)**	—	—	—	—	41
12	TED/DBK (Deemed Exports)***	418 51	405 74	525	772	1013
13	MDA***	35 79	35 80	23 22	27 55	27 56

NOTE For Gems & Jewellery Schemes, figures shown are for the schemes operated by Department of Commerce

B. Duty Concession/Payment made under the following schemes (as provided by Department of Revenue):

Sl. No.	Scheme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (up to Feb. 2008)
1.	EOU/EHTP/STP/EPZs	9421.95	8266.34	10448.60	14385.51	21858.28
2.	Duty Drawback for Physical Exports	4415.00	2811.52	2659.82	5646	7595.75
3.	SEZ	1320.02	1077.31	1708.72	2204.59	2197.07

Hike in cement price

†3116. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cement has been hiked recently by the cement industry in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices;

(c) the Government tax, increase in prices of fuel and its supply being less than the demand have been cited as the reasons for increasing the prices by the cement industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on their above said reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The prices of cement had increased sharply between December, 2005 and March, 2007 due to demand-supply mismatch. However, prices have largely stabilized since March, 2007, showing an increase of 4.44% between March, 2007 and March, 2008. Government has taken a number of measures to increase the supply of cement in the market to cater to increased demand. These include facilitating import by reducing the import duty on cement to 'Nil', removal of countervailing duty and special additional customs duty. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Government of India enterprise, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and M/s Puducherry Agro Services Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. The export of cement has also been banned and Government's resolve to take strict measures to curb profiteering and cartelization have been announced.

Patents issued during 2007

3117. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many patents have been issued by the Patent Office in 2007;

(b) the details of it category-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.